(c) how these policies have so far benefited the industrial sector, especially medium and Small Scale Industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) The structural reforms in the industrial sector had been introduced in the year 1991 in the form of a New Industrial Policy (NIP). The major objectives of the New Industrial Policy are to build on the gains already made, correct the distortions or weaknesses that may have crept in, maintain a sustained growth in productivity and gainful employment and attain international competitiveness. All sectors of industry whether small, medium or large belonging to the public, private or cooperative sector would be encouraged to grow. In pursuit of these objectives, Government have taken a number of steps, which include, inter-alia the following:—

(i) The scope of de-licensing has been widened. Only six items are under compulsory licensing at present.

(ii) More thrust have been given to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to supplement domestic investment. For promoting FDI, Government have recently placed all items/ activities under the automatic route, with a few exceptions.

(iii) The investment limit on plant and machinery for SSI/ancillary industrial undertakings has been lowered from Rs. 3 crore to Rs. 1 crore. The limit for tiny industries has been fixed at Rs. 25 lakh.

These policy decisions have resulted in increase in the number of small scale units, increase in the generation of employment and enhancement in exports.

Identification of new items for Export

†1064. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether new market and new items have been identified for exports during the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the value of exports of these new items made to these markets during the last three years?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Various measures are being taken up to promote exports including identification of new markets and new items which is an on-going process. These include various multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions to deversify our exports.

As per the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics provisional data for 1998-99, the top 15 export destinations of Indian goods were USA, UK, Germany, Hong Kong, UAE, Japan, Belgium, Italy, Bangladesh, France, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Singapore and Spain; and the top export commodities were Gems and Jewellary, Readymade Garments of Cotton including accessories, Cotton Yarn Fabrics and madeups, Drugs, Pharmaceuticals and fine chemicals, Machinery and Instruments, Manufactures of metals, Marine products, Rice (other than Basmati) Readymade Garments Manmade fibres, Transport Equipment, Manmade yarn, Fabrics madeups, Handicrafts (excluding handmade carpets) tea and inorganic/organic/agro chemicals.

Export Target

†1065. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had fixed any target for exports during current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the value of exports till the end of December, 1999; and

(d) the names of those ten items out of these exports which have been exported in largest number and the value thereof, separately?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An export target of US $ 37400 million (excluding computer software) has been fixed for the year 1999-2000 registering a growth rate of 11.3% over the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics provisional data of 1998-99.

(c) As per the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics provisional data exports during April-December, 1999 have been valued at US $ 27419.23 million.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.